

“The Pardon Test”
Genesis 50

Hebrew (forgive): “to bear up”; “to lift up”.

In order to forgive we must:

1. Release

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:18.

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:19-21

2. Receive

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:12-15

“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:8

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

3. Request

How can I ask God to help me forgive?

1. Honestly confess your feelings.

Three ways of showing your feelings:

1. Repress it
2. Express it
3. Confess it

2. Ask God to heal you.

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalms 147:3

“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” John 20:21-23

3. Give God permission to change your feelings.
4. Pray specifically for each person who has injured you.

Principle: Forgiveness doesn't make the other person right – forgiveness sets you free.

4. Repay them with kindness.

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

5. Reinvent the relationship.

“Lord, I forgive (name of person) for (name the specifics). I take authority over the enemy, and in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of His Holy Spirit, I take back the ground I have allowed Satan to gain in my life because of my attitude toward (the person) and give this ground back to Jesus Christ.”